Use of synthetic flavours/colours

60. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by the Central Government to ensure and check that the various types of artificial colours and flavours, particularly those manufactured by the small-scale industries, which do not have any well-equipped research and development infrastructure, and which are at present being indiscriminately used not only in soft drinks but also in confectionary, strictly comply with the provisions of the Food Products Order, 1965; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to discourage the use of such synthetic flavours and colours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Usage of food colours and flavours in the manufacture of soft drinks and confectionery is governed by the provisions of Fruit Products Order 1955 (FPO) and Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955 (PFA) which are administered by the Departments of Food and Health respectively. The information given by these Departments is furnished below:—

Fruit Products Order 1955 applies only to those soft drinks which are manufactured with motive power. There may be many units which manufacture soft drinks without motive power and such units do not come under the purview of the Fruit Products Order, 1955. Part XXII of the Second Schedule of the FPO gives the list of permissible harmless food colours that can be used in fruit products including soft drinks. According to the FPO, only those permitted coal tar colours, which are sold under the Indian Standard Institution certification mark shall be used in the manufacture of fruit products.

The enforcement of Fruit Products Order is carried out by the Directorate of Fruit and Vegetable preservation which has a complement of qualified food technologist with specialisation in this field, headed by a Director who is also the licensing officer under the Order. He is assisted by a Deputy Director at Head Quarters and 4 regional Deputy Directors posted at New Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta with supporting technical officers. The enforcement is carried out by periodic factory inspections in order to ensure maintenance of sanitary and hygienic conditions and other related aspects under the provisions of the Order. For quality control samples are drawn from the factories as well as from the open market for laboratory analysis.

The laboratory analysis are carried out at the Department's laboratories located at New Delhi, Madras, Bombay and Calcutta and also at the Central Food Technological Research Institute. During analysis, permitted colours use in soft drinks are also checked. In case the samples are found not to conform to the specifications laid down in the Order, suitable action is taken. Such action includes suspension of production, seizure of goods and cancellation of licence.

Certain food colours have been permitted for use in soft-drinks as well as confectionary under PFA Rules 1955. Flavours are also allowed in these products and harmful flavours have been prohibited under PFA Rules, 1985. To have a control on the quality of food colours their specifications have been laid down under PFA Rules and it has been made mandatory that their food colours are sold only under ISI Certifi-

cation marks. To control the quality of colours to be used in food products, a maximum limit of 200 pm has been laid down under PFA Rules. Violation of these rules is liable for penal action under PFA Act.

Policy for the paints industry

61. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for the Paints Industry and if so, its licensing policy towards the manufacture of Industrial paints, protective coatings and corrosion inhibitors; and

(b) the steps being taken for their indigenisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The applications for industrial lincences for paints and coatings are considered on merits within the framework of the industrial policy of the Government. Certain items of paints and coatings are reserved for exclusive production in the small scale sector.

In order to promote indigenisation, Government are encouraging foreign collaboration to up-grade the technology particularly with regard to marine protective coatings and corrosion inhibitors where indigenous technology is not enough. Encouragement is also given to indigenous units to instal high speed grinding equipments etc., to match their products with international standards.

Performance of Public Sector

62. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a survey conducted by Government recently the performance of the public sector is far below the targets set for the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to see that the public sector contributes 53 per cent of all the resources?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the targets of resource generation by the public sector for the Seventh Five Year Plan. A mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan is being done by the Government. A firm view of mobilisation of financial resources by the public sector for Seventh Plan will be available after completion of the assessment.

63. [*Transferred to the 4th August*, 1987].

Export of Automobiles

64. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of automobiles have been steadily going down and if the present trend continues the country is likely to be eliminated from the world automobile market in the near future;

(b) if so, what is the comparative percentage of exports of commercial vehicle during the years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 as against the target, if any, stating the comparative decline in the foreign exchange earnings as a result thereof;